

Thousands of books donated to ECE

Over 4,000 children's books have been donated to FCBMRDD's Early Childhood Department thanks to the efforts of the Barnes and Noble bookstore at Easton.

The books were purchased by customers of the store as part of a book donation campaign that ran from October through December. Store staff encouraged customers to support FCBMRDD by donating books.

The idea for the campaign arose last summer in a brief conversation between parent Meg Kuta and home-based teacher Kathy Fisher.

"Can your program use books?" asked Meg, who is employed as a bookseller at the store. "Yes!" answered Kathy.

According to Meg, the donation campaign provided a "positive focus for

our store." The number of books donated far exceeded expectations.

Meg and her husband Dave Kuta are the proud parents of Rachel, an enrollee in the infant program.

Early Childhood Director Rebecca Love thanked the Barnes and Noble staff, as well as all the donors.

"Their generosity will continue to nurture the curiosity and interests of hundreds of young children in our care," she said.



Let's support Operation Feed

FCBMRDD staff have launched their annual anti-hunger campaign, Operation Feed.

Collection efforts are underway at all FCBMRDD facilities. Last year \$16,875 and 5,296 pounds of food were collected.

Administration staff member Mike Davis is leading the drive this year. He is spreading the word about the need for food and cash donations.

"Food requests are up 14 percent at Mid-Ohio Foodbank's pantries since last year. And a huge number of the requests are for children," he said.

Donating money is an especially effective way to support the effort. For every \$1 received from donors, \$8 worth of groceries is distributed.

Operation Feed is a community-wide food drive co-sponsored by Mid-Ohio Foodbank and the United Way of Central Ohio.



FCBMRDD OPERATION FEED 2009

The following staff have been appointed to coordinate the agency's 2009 Operation Feed program: **Debbie Schafer, Trish Potenza, Kurt Schmitter** and **Bob McCarthy**, ARC Industries Central Office; **Sarah Gillilan**, ECE; **Denise Henkel**, ECLC; **Mike Doran**, ARC East; **Sharon Evrard** and **Marianne Patronite**, ARC North; **Carolyn Dailey** and **Terri Cramer**, ARC West; **Marsha Lowe**, ARC South; **Becky Shannon** and **Jackie Suver**, Bixby; **Carrie Vamos** and **Mary Jo Allen**, Hague; **Debbie Osborn**, West Central; **Robyn Wright**, Northeast; **Carmen Salas**, Service Coordination; **Amy Magginis, Cindy Masenelli**, and **Mike Davis**, Administration. **Amy Kulow, Doris Thomas, Toni Paris, Ronnia Parsley** and **Stephanie McManus**, East Compound; **Priscilla George, Mary Fairchild**, West Compound; **Dorcas Sharp, Beth Espinoza, Connie Hamm, Lou Rostorfer** and **Kathy Krzeczowski**, South Compound.

March is MRDD Awareness Month

“Just like you,” is the theme of this year’s MRDD Awareness Month. The kickoff event will be held at the Statehouse Atrium on Thursday, March 5th, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The purpose of the annual celebration is to promote positive perceptions of people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

Reflecting on the campaign theme, Superintendent Jed Morison said:

“We recognize that people with disabilities have the same hopes and dreams as the rest of us. They want to be a part of the community, and make a contribution.”

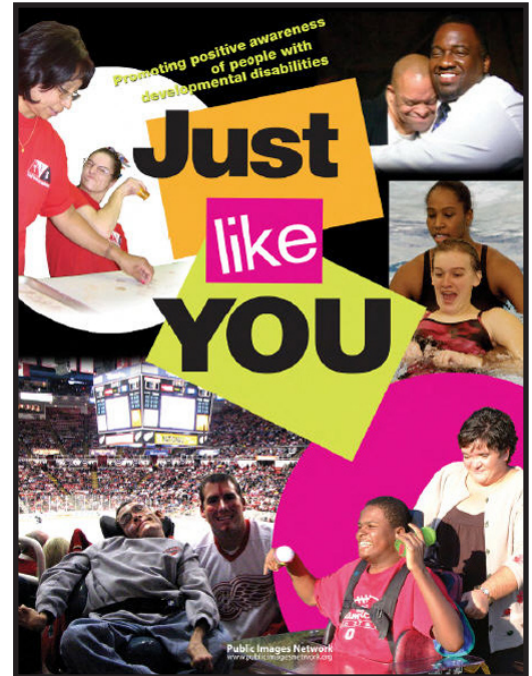
In recognition of MRDD Awareness Month, FCBMRDD facilities will display posters and other artwork. Many par-

ticipants will visit local libraries which celebrate the month.

The Early Childhood and Family Center will host its annual Resource Fair on March 11th.

Northeast School will hold its traditional Spaghetti Dinner on March 14th. West Central School will hold an Information Fair on March 16th.

More information regarding awareness activities may be found at www.publicimagesnetwork.org.



Seek change? Try advocacy

Legislative Advocacy Day, sponsored by Arc of Ohio, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, the Ohio Autism Society and other disability organizations, will be held on March 31st and April 1st.

Trainings on March 31st will be held from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Hyatt on Capital Square.

Legislative visits will take place on April 1st from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Statehouse.

The purpose of the event is to allow parents of children with disabilities, individuals with disabilities, self-advocates, professionals, and other interested parties, to attend trainings and meet with their legislators to impact public policy.

Registration materials can be obtained at www.thearcofohio.org

Please contact Carmen Shelton, Advocacy Coordinator, at 740/505-8337 for further details.

Long-time ARC South staff retire

ARC Industries South staffers Rhonda Fout and Barbara Mills have retired. They had combined service to FCBMRDD of over 50 years.

Rhonda joined the agency December 19, 1983, and Barbara February 6, 1984. They worked together at South since 1994.



At left is Rhonda Fout with Barbara Mills.

The duo instructed a habilitation group of 16 individuals, focusing on health, fitness, current events, communication, nutrition and living skills. Their room, number 5.09, was a popular stop for colleagues and visitors.

According to ARC South Director Kurt Smith, “Rhonda and Barbara were responsible for a varied, well-structured curriculum that was a model for others. Something interesting was always happening.”

Best wishes to both from the entire FCBMRDD community!

Inauguration Day at Early Childhood

The inauguration of President Barack Obama on January 20th was the inspiration for a variety of educational and patriotic activities at the Early Childhood Education and Family Center on Johnstown Road, and the

Early Childhood Learning Community on Rudy Road.

Children, staff and families watched the day's events on TV. In addition, children designed flags and gave their own inaugural addresses.

"It was a moment in history shared in several places and spaces," said Rebecca Love, Director of FCBMRDD's Early Childhood Department.



Her 32 years "a gift," Karen Owen says

Karen Owen, Behavior Support Specialist at West Central School, retired at the end of December after 32 years of service. At a retirement celebration with co-workers, Karen commented on her career:

"I really believe that my career was a gift. I'm sure that I've gained much more than I've given."

Karen began with FCBMRDD in 1976 as a teaching assistant at old Southeast School. After a year, she earned a teaching certificate and then served as a lead teacher there for 8 years.

Having developed a particular interest in social and behavioral concerns, Karen became the Behavior Support Specialist at Southeast in 1985. In 1996, after Southeast closed, she switched to West Central School.

Karen was a founding member of the Agency's Behavior Support

Committee. "I loved the whole team concept" entailed in the group's work, she explained.

According to West Central Principal Barbara Michael-Jones, Karen was a key staff member:

"Karen's knowledge, her years of experience, her willingness to share with co-workers, and her unwavering commitment to our students, made her a strong contributor to our school and the agency as a whole."

Karen looks forward to spending more time with her children, Lindsay, Lauren and Mitch, and two granddaughters. At some point, she may explore other career options.

The entire FCBMRDD community wishes Karen the very best in her retirement!

Karen is to the right of her friend and coworker, Patty Aellig.



DSACO offers scholarships

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO) is offering college scholarships to individuals with Down syndrome and/ or their family members who are pursuing careers that will impact the lives of those with disabilities. If you would like to apply, please go to www.dsaco.net for the application and guidelines. The deadline for applying is March 31st.

Families to focus on quality care

At their next meeting, members of Families United will hear Darla Minamyer, Director of Minamyer Residential Services, Inc., speak on the topic, "Maintaining Quality Care During Times of Budget Constraints."

The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12th at 7 p.m. The location will be Overbrook Presbyterian Church, 4131 N. High Street.

The public is invited.

Siebold applications due April 1

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship from the John J. Siebold Memorial Scholarship Program, you must complete and submit your application to ARC Industries by Monday, April 1st.

To be eligible, an applicant must be employed by FCBMRDD for a minimum of one year, have a high school degree or equivalent, be pursuing a college degree (any level) in a field of study related to MRDD, and be either a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

John J. Siebold was a 27-year employee of FCBMRDD who was much admired for his commitment to helping people. He died unexpectedly in June, 2003, at which time he was ARC Industries' Operations Director. In his memory, ARC's Board of Trustees created the scholarship program.

Scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$1,500 annually at the discretion of the scholarship committee. Since 2004, thirty-two scholarships have been awarded for a total of \$43,000.

To obtain more information, including an application, please call 475-7007. Selection of scholarship winners will be made by April 27th.

Info Fair set at West Central School

West Central School's annual Information Fair will be held at the school Monday, March 16th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the parents group, the event is designed to provide families information regarding programs and services available for their children.

A free chili dinner will be provided, courtesy of Rally's. A caricature artist will be on hand to draw children's portraits.

West Central School is located at 1480 W. Town Street.

Recycling program begins

FCBMRDD Controller Jennifer Schueneman has announced the start of a paper recycling program at the agency's Administration, Transportation, and Early Childhood departments located at 2879 Johnstown Road, as well as at ARC Industries' offices at 2300 Marilyn Lane.

Large, brown containers, called "totes," have been placed throughout the facilities. Staff are requested to place all paper items, including cardboard, in the containers. Only paper items are included in the program at present.

Questions may be directed to Jennifer at 342-5980.

4 3/2009

PAR offers benefits training

"Benefits and Employment, Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security and SSI -- Learn How to Maximize Benefits for Those You Serve" is the title of training being offered by the Professional Association for Retardation (PAR) on April 30th at the Holiday Inn in Worthington.

Five hours of MRDD certification credit have been approved.

To register or obtain additional information, please visit PAR's website www.par-ohio.org, or contact Erick Berquist at 342-5398.

Good For You

Notable Achievements in the FCBMRDD Community

Career Milestones

The soldiers of **Task Force 44 MED**, Camp Victory, Iraq, sent a note to **ARC Industries East** employees thanking them for a care package sent in December. Lt. Sherman Baker commented that the gift “had a positive impact on the morale of our soldiers.” Staff coordinating the effort were **Barbara Schreiner** and **Janet Series**.

Creative Housing’s Apartments at Stoneridge have received the “Best New Housing” award from the City of Gahanna’s Department of Development. The apartments, which are located near the intersection of Morse and Hamilton Roads, opened last year.

Franklin County Probate Judge **Eric Brown** has named former Municipal Court Judge **Mark Froehlich** as Chief Magistrate. He succeeds **William Reddington**, who retired in January, as did former Probate Judge **Lawrence Belskis**.

Congratulations to all the trophy winners at the “For the Fun of It” bowling event on January 31st: Individuals - **Jeff Rayburn**, **Lora Rinehart** (*seen at right*), Teams - **James Bay**, **Jeff Rayburn**, **Brian Parks**, **Rick Armentrout**, (*seen below*); and **Nancy Mills**, **Erin Vandemark**, **Melissa Wren**, **Carla Wills** (*seen at lower right*).

FCBMRDD Board member **Dean Fadel** has been elected Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD.



Several participants from **ARC Industries North** paid a visit to Nationwide Children’s Hospital on December 15th. They brought along handmade, knit hats which they donated to patients there. The hats were knitted by the participants using circular hoops.



25 years

Lisa Hipple
James Swank

20 years

Marianne Male

15 years

Elana Askew
Wanda Kenty
Shirley Maynard
Clyde Moss
Ronald Rucker

10 years

Rachel Thomas

5 year

Leonard Fears
Suzanne Flowers
William Foeller
Ivory Havener
Carrie McDonald
Kim Treece



Giving help instead of receiving

The year-round delivery of home-baked cookies and greeting cards may seem like a simple gesture, but senior citizens with mental retardation and developmental disabilities at Goodwill Columbus are effectively reaching out to help other people -- hundreds of hospice patients -- throughout central Ohio each month via Odyssey HealthCare.

"All of our patients appreciate the gifts, but some of our patients do not have family, and for them these special gifts are a great comfort," said Michelle Barnhart, Manager of Volunteer Services for Odyssey HealthCare, based in Gahanna.

Goodwill's volunteer service program for the patients at Odyssey HealthCare started two years ago by a few participants in Sage Senior Services. Today, the Sage Senior Services staff have enlisted more than 80 individuals with disabilities to help bake, and make greeting cards, activity sheets and puzzles, as well as decorations for hospice patients' rooms. This is done on a monthly basis.

According to Connie Butler, a Lead Habilitation Manager for Sage, "Our senior citizens, many with a variety of disabilities, benefit from their volunteer service to Odyssey. They are learning to socialize and work together while showing compassion for others with uncompromising illnesses," said Butler. "Having always been the ones to receive help, our Sage participants delight in being able to give back to others in the community."



Older adults, age 45 and up, join Sage Senior Services at Goodwill upon referral by FCBMRDD.

Anyone wanting to volunteer at Odyssey HealthCare or Goodwill Columbus should contact the following individuals: Lois Miller, Volunteer Coordinator, Goodwill Columbus, at 583-0242; or Michelle Barnhart, Manager Volunteer Services, Odyssey HealthCare, at 414-0500.

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Jerry Saunders
Helen Ninos
Dean Fadel
Galen Stover
Lito Ramirez
Renee Stein
Jean Williams

Superintendent Jed W. Morison

FCBMRDD does not discriminate in employment or services on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, or handicap.

The following FCBMRDD staff contribute to the monthly publication and distribution of Dateline.

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Jennifer Cunningham		

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(614) 475-6440 FAX 342-5001

Calendar

March, 2009

- 5 MRDD Awareness Month Kickoff Event, Statehouse Atrium, 10 a.m. - 12 noon.
- 8 Daylight Savings Time begins.
- 10 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 11 ECE Fourth Annual Resource Fair, Early Childhood Education and Family Center, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 11 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.
- 12 Families United meeting, 4131 N. High St., 7 p.m.
- 14 Northeast School's Annual Spaghetti Dinner, 500 N. Hamilton Rd., Gahanna, 4-8 p.m.
- 16 West Central School's Annual Information Fair, 1480 W. Town St., 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- 17 **Happy St. Patrick's Day!**
- 18 Parent League meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 20 Spring begins.
- 23 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Holiday Inn On-the-Lane, 11:30 a.m.
- 26 FCBMRDD Human Resources and Finance Committee meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 26 FCBMRDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.

"Quotable quotes"

"If you judge people, you
have no time to love them."

-- *Mother Teresa*

Information about FCBMRDD is always available on the internet at:

www.fcbmrdd.org